

(12) INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION PUBLISHED UNDER THE PATENT COOPERATION TREATY (PCT)

(19) World Intellectual Property Organization International Bureau



(43) International Publication Date
28 April 2005 (28.04.2005)

PCT

(10) International Publication Number
WO 2005/037593 A3

(51) International Patent Classification⁷: H04Q 7/20 South, Winamac, IN 46996 (US). HUNT, Bryan [US/US]; 265 West 950 South, Star City, IN 46985 (US).

(21) International Application Number: PCT/US2004/032073 (74) Agent: STERN, Martin, L.; Michael Best & Friedrich LLP, 401 N. Michigan Avenue, Suite 1900, Chicago, IL 60611 (US).

(22) International Filing Date: 30 September 2004 (30.09.2004) (81) Designated States (unless otherwise indicated, for every kind of national protection available): AE, AG, AL, AM, AT, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BR, BW, BY, BZ, CA, CH, CN, CO, CR, CU, CZ, DE, DK, DM, DZ, EC, EE, EG, ES, FI, GB, GD, GE, GH, GM, HR, HU, ID, IL, IN, IS, JP, KE, KG, KP, KR, KZ, LC, LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LV, MA, MD, MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, MZ, NA, NI, NO, NZ, OM, PG, PH, PL, PT, RO, RU, SC, SD, SE, SG, SK, SL, SY, TJ, TM, TN, TR, TT, TZ, UA, UG, US, UZ, VC, VN, YU, ZA, ZM, ZW.

(25) Filing Language: English (84) Designated States (unless otherwise indicated, for every kind of regional protection available): ARIPO (BW, GH, GM, KE, LS, MW, MZ, NA, SD, SL, SZ, TZ, UG, ZM, ZW), Eurasian (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, MD, RU, TJ, TM), European (AT, BE, BG, CH, CY, CZ, DE, DK, EE, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, HU, IE, IT, LU, MC, NL, PL, PT, RO, SE, SI, SK, TR), OAPI (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, GQ, GW, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG).

(26) Publication Language: English

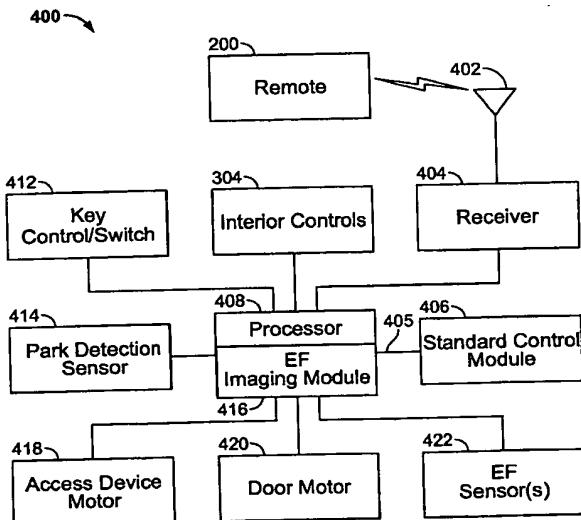
(30) Priority Data: 60/510,937 14 October 2003 (14.10.2003) US

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(54) Title: SYSTEM AND METHOD FOR ELECTRIC FIELD SENSING OF A VEHICLE MOBILITY ACCESS DEVICE



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(57) Abstract: Systems and methods are provided for electric field sensing of the presence of an object on a mobility access device (10) such as a wheelchair lift (408) or ramp, and disabling the device from operating. One or more electrodes (422) are installed on a wheelchair lift (418) or ramp to produce electric fields. An electric field imaging device receives inputs from the electrodes, and is able to discriminate changes in the electric field. By connecting the electric field imaging device to a controller (408), several electrodes may be selected sequentially to detect an object in various locations, or to determine an object's size and shape. When the electric field imaging device senses an object, the controller, in communication with the electric field imaging device (416), can display a vehicle function such as storage of a wheelchair lift (418), so that user injuries are prevented.



Published:

- *with international search report*
- *before the expiration of the time limit for amending the claims and to be republished in the event of receipt of amendments*

For two-letter codes and other abbreviations, refer to the "Guidance Notes on Codes and Abbreviations" appearing at the beginning of each regular issue of the PCT Gazette.

(88) Date of publication of the international search report:

22 December 2005